

5 What Is Claimed Is:

1. A program similarity detecting device comprising:
- a receiver adapted to receive an input stream of television program content and electronic program guide data, and adapted to separate the electronic program guide data from the input stream, wherein the program guide data includes a plurality of attributes characterizing television programs within the television program content;
- a memory coupled to the receiver and adapted to store the electronic program guide data;
- a controller coupled to the memory; and
- a display coupled to the controller;
- wherein the controller is programmed to compare a first set of attributes relating to at least one television program within the television program content to a second set of attributes relating to a second television program within the television program content to determine a correlation between the first set of attributes and the second set of attributes, wherein the controller is programmed to determine whether the second television program is similar to the first television program based on the correlation between the first set of attributes and the second set of attributes, and wherein the controller is programmed to cause the display to generate a first display indicating the second television program if the second television program is determined to be similar to the first television program.
2. The device of claim 1, wherein the controller is programmed to cause the display to generate a second display including an explanation describing the correlation between the first set of attributes and the second set of attributes.

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5 3. The device of claim 2, wherein the explanation includes a textual
description of the attributes used by the controller when determining the
correlation between the first set of attributes and the second set of attributes.

 4. The device of claim 1, wherein the plurality of attributes
characterizing television programs within the television program content include
10 category information and wherein the controller is programmed to compare
category information associated with the first television program to category
information associated with the second television program to determine the
correlation.

 5. The device of claim 1, wherein the plurality of attributes
15 characterizing television programs within the television program content include
keywords and phrases and wherein the controller is programmed to compare
keywords and phrases associated with the first television program to keywords and
phrases associated with the second television program to determine the correlation.

 6. The device of claim 1, wherein the plurality of attributes
20 characterizing television programs within the television program content include
series information and wherein the controller is programmed to compare series
information associated with the first television program to series information
associated with the second television program to determine the correlation.

 7. The device of claim 1, wherein the plurality of attributes
25 characterizing television programs within the television program content include
group information and wherein the controller is programmed to compare group
information associated with the first television program to group information
associated with the second television program to determine the correlation.

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11. The device of claim 10, wherein the memory stores a cutoff score and wherein the controller is programmed to compare the similarity score to the cutoff score and to limit the number of indications of television programs displayed on the display using the cutoff score.

5 12. A method of identifying similar programs within a video reception
system comprising the steps of:
 storing first characterizing information associated with a first television
program;
 receiving further characterizing information associated with each of a set of
10 second television programs;
 performing a similarity comparison between the first characterizing
information and each of the further characterizing information to determine a third
set of television programs, wherein the third set of television programs comprises
the television programs within the second set of television programs having further
15 characterizing information that matches the first characterizing information to a
specific degree; and
 displaying indications of the third set of television programs.

20 13. The method of claim 12, further comprising the step of displaying
an explanation of the results of the similarity comparison.

 14. The method of claim 13, wherein the step of displaying an
explanation further comprises the step of displaying of an attribute associated with
the further characterizing information that matches an attribute associated with the
first characterizing information.

25 15. The method of claim 13, wherein the step of displaying an
explanation further comprises the step of displaying the explanation textually.

 16. The method of claim 12, wherein the first characterizing
information and the further characterizing information include attributes and
wherein the step of performing a similarity comparison between the first
30 characterizing information and the further characterizing information further

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5 comprises the step of performing a comparison between the attributes of the first
characterizing information and the attributes of the further characterizing
information.

17. The method of claim 16, wherein the attributes include category
information and wherein the step of performing a similarity comparison between
10 the first characterizing information and the further characterizing information
further comprises the step of performing a comparison between category
information of the first characterizing information and category information of the
further characterizing information.

18. The method of claim 16, wherein the attributes include keywords
15 and phrases and wherein the step of performing a similarity comparison between
the first characterizing information and the further characterizing information
further comprises the step of performing a comparison between keywords and
phrases of the first characterizing information and keywords and phrases of the
further characterizing information.

19. The method of claim 16, wherein the attributes include series
20 information and wherein the step of performing a similarity comparison between
the first characterizing information and the further characterizing information
further comprises the step of performing a comparison between series information
of the first characterizing information and series information of the further
25 characterizing information.

20. The method of claim 16, wherein the attributes include group
information and wherein the step of performing a similarity comparison between
the first characterizing information and the further characterizing information
further comprises the step of performing a comparison between group information

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5 of the first characterizing information and group information of the further characterizing information.

21. The method of claim 16, wherein the attributes include credits information and wherein the step of performing a similarity comparison between the first characterizing information and the further characterizing information
10 further comprises the step of performing a comparison between credits information of the first characterizing information and credits information of the further characterizing information.

22. The method of claim 16, wherein the attributes include name information and wherein the step of performing a similarity comparison between the first characterizing information and the further characterizing information
15 further comprises the step of performing a comparison between name information of the first characterizing information and name information of the further characterizing information.

23. The method of claim 12 further comprising the step of calculating a
20 similarity score for each of the television programs in the second set of television programs, wherein the similarity score is based upon the similarity comparison and wherein the step of displaying includes the step of displaying indications of the third set of television programs based on the calculated similarity scores.

24. A method of displaying program similarity explanations comprising
25 the steps of:

transmitting program guide data, the program guide data including characterizing information for each of a plurality of television programs;
receiving the program guide data;
storing the program guide data in a memory;

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5 identifying a first set of television programs;
storing characterizing information for the first set of television programs;
correlating the characterizing information of the first set of television
programs with characterizing information of a second set television programs; and
displaying an indication of the television programs within the second set of
10 television programs that is correlated to a predetermined degree with the first set of
television programs.

25. The method of claim 24, wherein the step of displaying the
indication includes the step of displaying an explanation of the correlation between
the first set of television programs and one of the television programs within the
15 second set of television programs that are correlated to a predetermined degree
with the first set of television programs.

26. The method of claim 24, wherein the first set of television programs
includes one television program.

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